

your sister would be pretty.

"After I saw you, I knew that all belonging to you would look pretty fine. I mean this. Don't sit back in your chair and ha, ha!

"I wish you would drop your going away trip. It would make things so lonesome for me. But whatever suits you, dear, will be satisfactory to me.

"You speak of Eldon (Bruington's son), Tom. I hope you feel that I shall love Eldon as any woman would, and that I shall make home as pleasant for him as I can. I hope that Eldon will stay in our home, with poor Lou, as long as ever he wants to. I think you ought to make arrangements so Eldon could always have a home with us."

Are these ordinary letters to come from a woman forty years old?

Is the subtle flattery contained in every sentence what one would expect in the letters of an elderly widow to such a man as Bruington?

There can be but one answer to these questions.

The letters are not ordinary. They are very extraordinary. Even if each one were written with great thought and care, they are extraordinary. And they evidence a mentality in Louise Vermilya as different from that of the ordinary woman of her age as the sun is different from the moon.

So perhaps this is the explanation of how Louise Vermilya fascinated men.

Perhaps it was not her out-

ward appearance, they loved. Perhaps it was her mind.

Or rather, perhaps Louise Vermilya's mentality is such that she is capable of so drawing men by subtle flattery that she can make men imagine themselves in love with her.

Is not that the real answer?

Take the cases of Bruington and Bissonette.

Neither of these men wished to love Mrs. Vermilya.

Bruington pretended to love her in order to trap her into some admission of guilty knowledge of the death of Richard T. Smith.

He kept up his pretense for a time, and then he, like a moth to the flame, was drawn to the woman, until he believed he loved her with his whole heart and soul.

Bissonette was engaged to Lydia Rivard. He had secured her plighted word only after a long and strenuous courtship. If ever a man were in love, Bissonette was in love with Miss Rivard.

But circumstances forced Bissonette to take a room at the Vermilya house. He was thrown into daily contact with the woman.

And, behold, Bissonette is in love with Louise Vermilya. He becomes her affianced husband, he stands ready to insure himself in her favor.

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One Guggenheim has come down to living in a flat in New York. Rent is only \$25,000 a year, but he isn't likely to be able to make even that out of Alaska coal.